

Charles Hadcock – taking on the age of speculation with sculpture in the City

Plus:

An extraordinary selection of pastels at Stephen Ongpin Fine Art, and the neglected Philip King

EXHIBITIONS

Andrew Lambirth 5 July 2014



'After the Bath (Le repos après bain)', 1897, by Edgar Degas, at Stephen Ongpin

The Art of Pastel

Stephen Ongpin Fine Art, 6 Mason's Yard, Duke Street, SW1,
until 25 July

Pastel is colour in line with an added smudginess that takes the edge off frank linearity, and thus blends intriguingly the disciplines of drawing and painting. It's difficult to handle with more than average success, but in the hands of a skilful manipulator it offers subtle combinations of hue and directional accent that no other medium can match. Stephen Ongpin and Sophie Camu have come up with a museum-quality selection of three centuries of pastels on paper, all of which are for sale. Their extraordinary selection includes three works by Degas (two coastal landscapes and a magnificent nude, 'After the Bath'), a very beautiful Sisley of the Gower Peninsula in Wales, Armand Point's seductive 'Autumn Soul' in diaphanous tulle, an unexpectedly fiery William Rothenstein landscape, and a gorgeous Vuillard Parisian street scene. There are also good things by Avigdor Arikha (on emery paper) and Sam Szafran, Simon Bussy (including a drawing of a copperhead snake in a snakeskin frame), Kupka and Munch (another sea's-edge subject), James Linnell (a stand of oaks) and William Degouve de Nuncques. Superb portraits by Camille Pissarro and Eva Gonzalez bring variety, and an excellent catalogue accompanies the show. Highly recommended.